

In re Application of Capps et al.
Serial No. 09/502,970

REMARKS

The Office action has been carefully considered. The Office action rejected claims 1-2, 8-44, and 70-71 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0028368 to Swartz et al. ("Swartz"). Further, the Office action rejected claims 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,055,327 to Aragon et al. ("Aragon"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

By present amendment, claims 1, 25, 29, and 44 have been amended for clarification and not in view of the prior art. Applicants submit that the claims as filed were patentable over the prior art of record, and that the amendments herein are for purposes of clarifying the claims and/or for expediting allowance of the claims and not for reasons related to patentability. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview held (by telephone) on August 19, 2005. During the interview, the Examiner and applicants' attorney discussed the claims with respect to the prior art. The essence of applicants' position is incorporated in the remarks below.

Prior to discussing reasons why applicants believe that the claims in this application are clearly allowable in view of the teachings of the cited and applied references, a brief description of the present invention is presented.

Various aspects of the present invention are directed to a user interface for navigating among screens on a personal computer. The user interface provides

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back and forward buttons for navigating across a large range of scenarios and interactions offered on the computer.

Existing web browsers, such as Microsoft Corporation's Internet Explorer, provide back and forward buttons for stepping back and forward among screens accessed by a user. However, these controls are only available within the context of the web browser application. With the release of Microsoft Corporation's Windows 98, these controls were extended to a limited set of scenarios and places within the operating system (e.g., Windows® Explorer). However, navigation between applications (and often within the applications) still required movement between, and opening and closing of, multiple windows and / or dialog boxes. In contrast, the back and forward navigation of the present invention provides movement between pages or locations in different applications via a seamless display of a user navigation shell. To this end, a unit of measure, called a "place" is defined. In general, an application is a place, and separate documents within an application may also define a place. Backwards navigation takes the user to the previous place, and forward navigation (if possible) takes the user to the next place.

To facilitate forward and backward navigation, a global travel log maintains a queue of visited places. Animations may be provided so that a user is aware that a navigation between places is occurring, which may not be readily apparent to a user when navigating between places in the same application. The animations may also provide an indication of the navigation direction, e.g., backward.

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Note that the above description is for example and informational purposes only, and should not be used to interpret the claims, which are discussed below.

§102 Rejections

Turning to the claims, independent claim 1, as amended, recites in a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing the user interface for selection therefrom, comprising maintaining information about a sequence of places visited on the computer system, the sequence extending across a plurality of applications, displaying, as part of a display of a first application of the plurality, a first selection mechanism associated with the sequence of places according to the information, and in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the first selection mechanism, navigating to a place in the sequence that is in a second application of the plurality.

The Office action rejected claim 1 as being anticipated by Swartz. More specifically, the Office action contends that Swartz teaches maintaining information about a sequence of places visited on the computer system, the sequence extending across a plurality of applications. Paragraph 0072 of Swartz is referenced. Further, the Office action contends that Swartz teaches displaying, along with a first application of the plurality, a first selection mechanism associated with the sequence of places according to the information. Paragraph 0029 and Fig. 3 of Swartz are referenced. Further yet, the Office action contends that Swartz teaches in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the first selection mechanism, navigating to a place in the sequence that is in a second application of

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the plurality. Paragraph 0040 of Swartz is referenced. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Swartz is directed, generally, to a system and method for displaying a separate application for maintaining information about various documents associated with other applications that have been recently accessed. More specifically, Swartz teaches an application that remains hidden from view until a mouse cursor enters the far left of a view screen, wherein a chronological list of active documents that have been recently accessed is maintained. Thus, if a user wishes to access a document that had been recently accessed, instead of navigating through directories to locate the document again, a user may access another application, *i.e.*, the application that is the invention of Swartz, to select the recently-accessed document through a menu system in Swartz. However, the system of Swartz remains a separate application and must be instantiated separately from any other application and also must be accessed separate from any currently running application, as the application of Swartz cannot be displayed as part of any other application.

In contrast, claim 1 recites in a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device. That is, the selection means is part of the user interface, *i.e.* a shell navigation system. Swartz does not teach a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device. Rather, Swartz merely teaches an application that may be displayed on a graphical user interface. That is, Swartz is not a shell navigation system. Thus, Swartz does not teach a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device as recited in claim 1.

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Nevertheless, claim 1 has been amended (for clarity, and not in view of the prior art) to recite displaying, as part of a display of a first application of the plurality, a first selection mechanism associated with the sequence of places according to the information. As discussed above, Swartz does not teach a graphical user interface system. Furthermore, Swartz certainly does not teach a selection mechanism that is part of the display of the application. Rather, the separate application of Swartz must be invoked by mousing across the left of a view screen. Simply put, Swartz cannot possibly be construed to teach displaying a first selection mechanism associated with the sequence of places according to the information as part of a display of a first application of the plurality, as recited in claim 1. Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record for at least the foregoing reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2 and 8-24, by similar analysis, are allowable. Each of these claims depends either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and consequently includes the recitations of independent claim 1. As discussed above, Swartz fails to disclose the recitations of claim 1 and therefore these claims are also allowable over the prior art of record. In addition to the recitations of claim 1 noted above, each of these dependent claims includes additional patentable elements.

For example, claim 14 recites, in response to a signal indicative of a first selection of one of the representations, displaying the application associated with the representation, and in response to a signal indicative of a second selection of one of the representations, displaying places that have been displayed in the

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application. Swartz teaches only a single selection of a document that has been accessed in the past. Swartz is not capable of establishing a secondary relationship between recently visited documents along with the particular application in which that document is associated. Therefore, Swartz cannot possibly be construed to teach the recitations of claim 14. Applicants submit that claim 14 is allowable over the prior art of record for at least this additional reason.

Turning to the next independent claim, amended claim 25 recites in a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing the user interface for selection therefrom, comprising maintaining information about a sequence of places visited on computer, the sequence extending across at least two applications, displaying, as part of a display of a first application, a first link associated with the sequence of places according to the information, and in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the first link, displaying a recent places page including a representation of the information about the sequence of places.

The Office action rejected claim 25 as being anticipated by Swartz. The Office action cited the same referenced to Swartz as were referenced with regard to the rejection of claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Swartz does not teach a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device. Rather, Swartz merely teaches an application that may be displayed on a graphical user interface. That is, Swartz is not a shell navigation system, whereby Swartz does not teach a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device as recited in claim 25.

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Nevertheless, claim 25 has been amended (for clarity, and not in view of the prior art) to recite displaying, as part of a display of a first application, a first link associated with the sequence of places according to the information. As discussed above, Swartz does not teach a graphical user interface system. Furthermore, Swartz certainly does not teach a selection mechanism that is part of the display of the application. Rather, the separate application of Swartz must be invoked by mousing across the left of a view screen. Simply put, Swartz cannot possibly be construed to teach displaying, as part of a display of a first application, a first link associated with the sequence of places according to the information, as recited in claim 25. Applicants submit that claim 25 is allowable over the prior art of record for at least the foregoing reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 26-28, by similar analysis, are allowable. Each of these claims depends either directly or indirectly from claim 25 and consequently includes the recitations of independent claim 25. As discussed above, Swartz fails to disclose the recitations of claim 25 and therefore these claims are also allowable over the prior art of record. In addition to the recitations of claim 25 noted above, each of these dependent claims includes additional patentable elements.

Turning to the next independent claim, amended claim 29 recites in a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing the user interface for selection therefrom, comprising maintaining information about applications configured to run on the computer system, displaying for each of the applications, according to the information about

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applications, a representation corresponding to the application, such that the representation is displayed as part of at least one of the applications, and in response to a signal indicative of a selection of one of the representations, displaying places that have been visited by the application.

The Office action rejected claim 29 as being anticipated by Swartz. The Office action again cited similar references to Swartz as were referenced with regard to the rejection of claims 1 and 25. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Swartz remains a separate application that must be instantiated separately from any other application and also must be accessed separate from any currently running application, as the application of Swartz cannot be displayed as part of any other application. In contrast, claim 29 recites a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device. That is, the selection means is part of the user interface, *i.e.* a shell navigation system. Swartz does not teach a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device. Rather, Swartz merely teaches an application that may be displayed on a graphical user interface. That is, Swartz is not a shell navigation system. Thus, Swartz does not teach a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device as recited in claim 29.

Nevertheless, claim 29 has been amended (for clarity, and not in view of the prior art) to recite displaying for each of the applications, according to the information about applications, a representation corresponding to the application, such that the representation is displayed as part of at least one of the applications. As discussed above, Swartz does not teach a graphical user interface system.

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Furthermore, Swartz certainly does not teach a selection mechanism that is part of the display of an application. Rather, the separate application of Swartz must be invoked by mousing across the left of a view screen. Simply put, Swartz cannot possibly be construed to teach that the representation is displayed as part of at least one of the applications, as recited in claim 29. Applicants submit that claim 29 is allowable over the prior art of record for at least the foregoing reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 30-36, by similar analysis, are allowable. Each of these claims depends either directly or indirectly from claim 29 and consequently includes the recitations of independent claim 29. As discussed above, Swartz fails to disclose the recitations of claim 29 and therefore these claims are also allowable over the prior art of record. In addition to the recitations of claim 29 noted above, each of these dependent claims includes additional patentable elements.

Turning to the next independent claim, claim 37 recites in a computer system, a method of navigating between places that have been visited by the computer system, comprising maintaining information about a place, the information including: a reference to first executable code for displaying the place; and a reference to a data object that is bound with the executable code to display the place, altering the data object in a second executable code so as to form an altered data object, and in response to a request for the place, binding the altered data object and the first executable code and displaying an altered place.

The Office action rejected claim 37 as being anticipated by Swartz. More specifically, the Office action contends that Swartz teaches a reference to first

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executable code for displaying the place. Paragraphs 0005-0009 of Swartz are referenced. Further, the Office action contends that Swartz teaches a reference to a data object that is bound with the executable code to display the place.

Paragraphs 0032-0035 of Swartz are referenced. Further yet, the Office action contends that Swartz teaches altering the data object in a second executable code so as to form an altered data object. Paragraph 0043 of Swartz is referenced.

Finally, the Office action contends that Swartz teaches in response to a request for the place, binding the altered data object and the first executable code and displaying an altered place. Paragraph 0043 of Swartz is referenced. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Swartz teaches an application that remains hidden from view until a mouse cursor enters the far left of a view screen, wherein a chronological list of active documents that have been recently accessed is maintained. Paragraph 0043 of Swartz further describes a method for associating a "blank" filename for any files that are requested to be accessed and then subsequently are not found.

The Office action cited paragraph 0043 of Swartz in reference to altering the data object in a second executable code so as to form an altered data object, and in response to a request for the place, binding the altered data object and the first executable code and displaying an altered place as recited in claim 37. The Office action did not provide any further detail as to why the cited and applied section of Swartz anticipates the recitations of claim 37, and applicants do not understand the correlation between the present invention, as recited in claim 37, and this section of

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Swartz. In fact, applicants submit that the Swartz teaching of dealing with missing files cannot possibly be construed to teach altering the data object in a second executable code so as to form an altered data object, and in response to a request for the place, binding the altered data object and the first executable code and displaying an altered place as recited in claim 37. Applicants submit that claim 37 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 37-43, by similar analysis, are allowable. Each of these claims depends either directly or indirectly from claim 37 and consequently includes the recitations of independent claim 37. As discussed above, Swartz fails to disclose the recitations of claim 37 and therefore these claims are also allowable over the prior art of record. In addition to the recitations of claim 37 noted above, each of these dependent claims includes additional patentable elements.

Turning to the next independent claim, amended claim 44 recites a computer readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, the data structure comprising: a first data field comprising a reference to a page code for use in rendering a place that has been visited on a computer system and a second data field comprising a reference to a data object that is bound with the page code to display the place, and a third data field comprising view state information that selects a view state for a binding of the data object and the executable code. Please note that the amendments to claim 44 are to remove an errant use of the word "and" as well as an errant semicolon.

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The Office action rejected claim 44 as being anticipated by Swartz. More specifically, the Office action contends that Swartz teaches a first data field comprising a reference to a page code for use in rendering a place that has been visited on a computer system. Paragraph 0072 of Swartz is referenced. Further, the Office action contends that Swartz teaches a second data field comprising a reference to a data object that is bound with the page code to display the place. Paragraph 0039 and Fig. 3 of Swartz is referenced. Further yet, the Office action contends that Swartz teaches a third data field comprising view state information that selects a view state for a binding of the data object and the executable code. Paragraph 0043 of Swartz is referenced. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Swartz is directed, generally, to a system and method for displaying a separate application for maintaining information about various documents that have been recently accessed. More specifically, Swartz teaches an application that remains hidden from view until a mouse cursor enters the far left of a view screen, wherein a chronological list of active documents that have been recently accessed is maintained. Paragraph 0043 of Swartz further describes a method for associating a "blank" filename for any files that are requested to be accessed and then subsequently are not found.

The Office action cited paragraph 0043 of Swartz in reference a third data field comprising view state information that selects a view state for a binding of the data object and the executable code as recited in claim 44. Again, the Office action did not provide any further detail as to why the cited and applied section of Swartz anticipates the recitations of claim 44, and applicants do not understand the

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correlation between the present invention, as recited in claim 44, and the this section of Swartz. In fact, applicants submit that the Swartz teaching of dealing with missing files is completely unrelated, and cannot possibly be construed to teach or even suggest a third data field comprising view state information that selects a view state for a binding of the data object and the executable code as recited in claim 44. Applicants submit that claim 44 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Turning to the last independent claim, claim 70 recites in a computer system having a user interface, a system for rendering a page on the user interface, comprising a data object corresponding to the page, page code corresponding to the page, view state information corresponding to the page, a data structure corresponding to the page and including references that bind the page code, the view state information and the data object to each other, a retrieval mechanism, the retrieval mechanism configured to access the data object, the page code and the view state information, and an interpreter, the interpreter connected to the retrieval mechanism and configured to render the page in accordance with the data object, the page code and the view state information.

The Office action rejected claim 70 as being anticipated by Swartz. More specifically, the Office action contends that Swartz teaches a data object corresponding to the page. Item 304 of Fig. 3 of Swartz is referenced. Further, the Office action contends that Swartz teaches page code corresponding to the page. Fig. 3 of Swartz is referenced. Further yet, the Office action contends that Swartz teaches view state information corresponding to the page. Again, Fig. 3 of Swartz

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is referenced. Still further, the Office action contends that Swartz teaches a data structure corresponding to the page and including references that bind the page code, the view state information and the data object to each other. Paragraph 0072 of Swartz is referenced. The Office action contends that Swartz teaches a retrieval mechanism, the retrieval mechanism configured to access the data object, the page code and the view state information. Item 303 of Fig. 3 and paragraph 0029 of Swartz is referenced. Finally, the Office action contends that Swartz teaches an interpreter, the interpreter connected to the retrieval mechanism and configured to render the page in accordance with the data object, the page code and the view state information. Paragraph 0040 of Swartz is referenced. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Swartz is directed, generally, to a system and method for displaying a separate application for maintaining information about various documents that have been recently accessed. More specifically, Swartz teaches an application that remains hidden from view until a mouse cursor enters the far left of a view screen, wherein a chronological list of active documents that have been recently accessed is maintained. Thus, if a user wishes to quickly access a document that had been recently accessed, instead of navigating through directories to locate the document again, a user may access another application, *i.e.*, the application that is the invention of Swartz, to select the recently-accessed document through a menu system in Swartz. However, the system of Swartz remains a separate application and must be instantiated separately from any other application and also must be accessed separate from any currently running

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application, as the application of Swartz cannot be displayed as part of any other application.

In contrast, claim 70 recites in a computer system having a user interface for rendering a page on the user interface. As such, any selection means may be part of the user interface, *i.e.* a shell navigation system. Swartz does not teach a user interface and a user interface selection device. Rather, Swartz merely teaches an application that may be displayed on a user interface. That is, Swartz is not a shell navigation system. Thus, Swartz does not teach a user interface as used in the present invention and as recited in claim 70. Applicants submit that claim 70 is allowable over the prior art of record for at least the foregoing reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 71, by similar analysis, is allowable. This claim depends directly from claim 70 and consequently includes the recitations of independent claim 70. As discussed above, Swartz fails to disclose the recitations of claim 70 and therefore claim 71 is also allowable over the prior art of record. In addition to the recitations of claim 70 noted above, each of these dependent claims includes additional patentable elements.

§103 Rejections

The Office action rejected dependent claims 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). More specifically, the Office action rejected claims 3-7 as being unpatentable over Swartz in view of Aragon.

Each of these dependent claims depends from independent claim 1 which has been addressed previously with respect to the respective §102 rejection. As was argued above, the recitations of the claim 1 are not taught by the respective

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references cited, (i.e., Swartz does not teach the recitations of claim 1 it is alleged to have taught, and Aragon does not cure Swartz's deficiencies). As such, the combination of these references with other references cannot possibly be construed to teach or even suggest the recitations of the various dependent claims. Furthermore, the combination of Swartz with Aragon as cited in the §103 rejections, also fails to teach or even suggest the recitations of the respective rejected dependent claims cited by the Office action. Simply put, the prior art of record, whether considered as individual references or in any permissible combination with each other, still fails to teach or suggest the recitations of claims 3-7. Applicants submit that these claims are allowable over the prior art of record.

For at least these additional reasons, applicants submit that all the claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in the Office action is respectfully requested and early allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

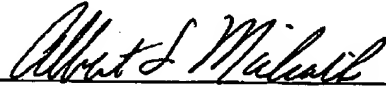
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-44 and 70-71 are patentable over the prior art of record, and that the application is in good and proper form for allowance. A favorable action on the part of the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (425) 836-3030.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this Response, along with transmittal, petition for extension of time, credit card payment form and facsimile cover sheet, are being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.6(d) on the date shown below:

Date: September 21, 2005


Albert S. Michalik

2300 Amendment